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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

SUBJECT Soviet and East German Military
Activity at Rathenow

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report giving the following
information on Soviet and East German military activity at Rathenow
between 5 and 20 August 1956:

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1. Unloading at Rathenow main station on 5 August of a train loaded with equipment for the East German Army (NVA).
2. Driving practice in an area near Rathenow by approximately 12 trucks towing weapons on 7 August and every day thereafter until 20 August.
3. Unloading at the Nordbahnhof, Rathenow, of a train loaded with equipment for both the Soviet and the East German Army.

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STATE	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI	AEC						
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EAST GERMANY

MILITARY/AIR

Soviet and E.G.A. activity at RATHENOW and the ARADO
Werke and V.E.B. OPTIK, RATHENOW

(5 - 20 Aug 58)

1. On 5 Aug 58 at 0820 hours a train was off-loaded at RATHENOW main station of the following equipment of the E.G.A.:
 - (a) 20 x ZIS-151.
 - (b) 2 x field kitchens
 - (c) 20 x single-axled trailers.

This equipment drove away across the NEUE SCHLEUSE bridge.

2. On 7 Aug 58 and daily ever since, approximately 12 towing light mortars and guns (76 mm.) leave the KRAFT FAHRER Kaserne (BS 5443) at 0630 hours and carry out driving practice in the wooded area north-east of RATHENOW. The vehicles return to the Kaserne in the late afternoon.

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3. On 18 Aug 58 at 2015 hours a mixed Russian/E.G.A. train was off-loaded at the Nordbahnhof of the following equipment:

Russian

- (a) 4 x T34/85.
- (b) 10 x ZIS-151, with troops.
- (c) 5 x heavy mortars.
- (d) 4 x light mortars.
- (e) 2 x 152 mm. field guns.
- (f) 2 x T.P.M., M-1950.

E.G.A.

- (a) 8 x ZIS-151, each towing a 122 mm. field gun and carrying troops.
- (b) 4 x W/T trucks.
- (c) 2 x A.P.C. B.T.R. 6x6.
- (d) 2 x field kitchens.
- (e) 1 x ambulance.

The Russian and E.G.A. equipment moved off in the direction of HOHENNAUEN.

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4. ARADO WERKE, *Rathenow*

On 11 Aug 58 the ARADO Werke was handed over to the East German Government. Dr. August KRUMREY took over officially from the Russians. The Russian troops previously stationed at the ARADO Werke returned to barracks in RATHENOW.

5. On 12 Aug 58 a visit by officials from POTSDAM was made to the Works. Russian officers were amongst the German officials on this occasion.

6. Building construction continues at the Works. A large accommodation block of three stories, approximately 40 metres long, is nearly completed. Roughly ten semi-detached family houses are also being built.

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7. On 16 Aug 58 a BEAGLE aircraft took off from the short landing strip to the east of the workshop buildings.

8. V.E.B. OPTIK, RATHENOW

The barrels being produced at Workshop No. 4 have two lenses fitted in each barrel. At each end there is a screw joint, approximately 80 cms. from the end. At these two joins the lenses are fitted.

The lenses are sent from JENA in rough form. They are polished and fitted at Workshop No. 4.

9. The Russian personnel in charge of the workshop are all military.

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